



**Volume 5, Issue 4 — December 2011**

## A New Year's Message from the Grand Prior General

With the New Year fast approaching, I would like to share with you some of our Order's recent major successes, as well as procedural updates and thoughts that I plan to introduce to the Order for the future.

The year 2011 has been a banner year for the Order worldwide as we saw major growth increases in activities and operations in Finland, Hawaii and on the mainland of the USA. I am delighted to announce that we now have Four Priories on the North American continent and one in Hawaii. We are proud to have active members in 23 countries of the globe! Congratulations to all involved in these major accomplishments.

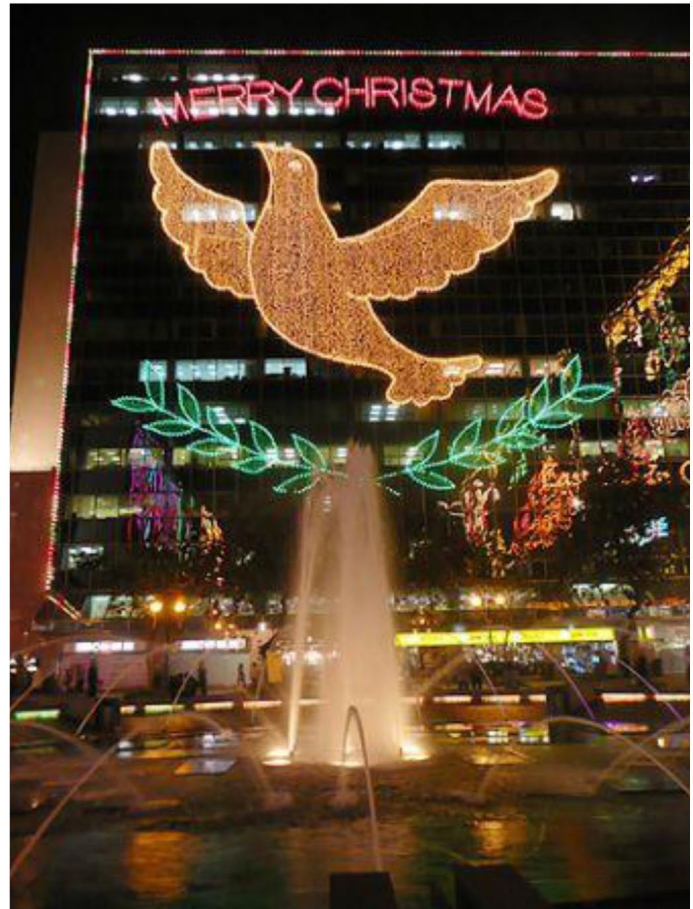
2012 is expected to be another outstanding and memorable year for the Order.

At present, within United States of America, we have 121 active members of the Order. As we exist to provide aid and guidance to the less fortunate, I am pleased to announce that we, as a Charitable Order of Knighthood, have distributed this year to charity. We sincerely thank all of our officers, Knights and Dames that have made this possible.

Please keep in mind that the Order of Constantine the Great and St. Helen exists for two reasons only; 1: to reward individuals that have accomplished important and good work for others with a knighthood or Ladyship in the future and 2, to collectively work together to provide charitable donations to worthy individuals and/or organizations who might otherwise be overlooked by the traditional large charitable organizations.

I remain yours in Chivalry, wishing you a happy and prosperous New Year.

Michael,  
Duke of Gardham,  
Grand Prior General



# Fall Investiture 2011



The Fall Investiture was held in Pasadena, California on October 22nd. The Evening began with a Procession of the Flags and Banners of the Order. The American Flag led the parade, followed by the Flags of Belgium, Canada, Korea, and Italy. The Flags of Constantine the Great, Saint Helen followed by His Grace's personal banner were at last placed in their positions on the stage.

Once the flags were in place, H.E. Michael Teilmann provided introductions of those individuals to be invested as Knights and Dames and the evening's Special Guests. The Highlight of the evening was the formal recognition and blessing of the Greek-Byzantine church by Arch Bishop Mataya.

A group of military personal representing the Marines, Army, Navy and Air Force, were introduced by LJ, then joined the stage at the request of H.E. Michael Teilmann. The Military guests were there to kick off the Annual Toys for Tots Campaign. (*See more about the Toys for Tots campaign on page 7*).

## *Celebrate the 1700th Anniversary of the Victorious Battle of Milan Bridge in ROME - Oct 2012*



Travel with the Members of the Order of Constantine the Great to the Grand Event in Rome 2012. Members from Belgium, Finland, United States, and other countries will be gathering for the Feast of Constantine. Set your calendars and plan to attend with us in Rome during the

## New Members in Armenia

Ray Reeder, Ruzan Mkrtchyan, and Lusine receiving certificates. Jivan was presented with his certificate separately. We had tea and coffee and discussed the plans of Burning Star. We are still in the process of moving to a new space. Our English classes are continuing.



## Medal of Saint Helen Awarded in St Helens

The city of Saint Helen is home to the only agency in Columbia County dedicated to assisting the survivors of Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault. Just as St Helen, the mother of Constantine the Great, worked tirelessly to ensure her people were safe, secure and educated, the Women's Resource Center, and the City of Saint Helens provide a safe and healthy environment for her citizens, including those most at risk, and in danger.



*Members of St Helen's City Council and Pacific North West Priory members, Dame Denise Beasley, H.G. Douglas Bailey, Mayor Randy Thomas, Dame Patricia Murphy, Sir John Quiroz, Sir Aaron Jubitz, Sir Robert Keller.*

## 2011 Day of the Child Event



The Day of the Child Event is a collaborative community effort and are grateful to the members of The Charitable Order of Constantine the Great and Saint Helen for joining forces with Children Uniting Nations and others to spread joy and love to hundreds of youth living in foster care within Los Angeles County.

Throughout the day, the youth and their mentors enjoyed a variety of fun activities including: Amusement Rides; Games, Tours of the Star Eco Station where abandoned animals are housed; Food; Dance Contests; Face Painting and so much more! We believe that the positive seeds that were planted in these youths lives during the event and through Children Uniting Nations' year-round Community and Academic programs will serve as a foundation for tremendous success in the future.

Melba Y. Tolbert

*Director of Operations*

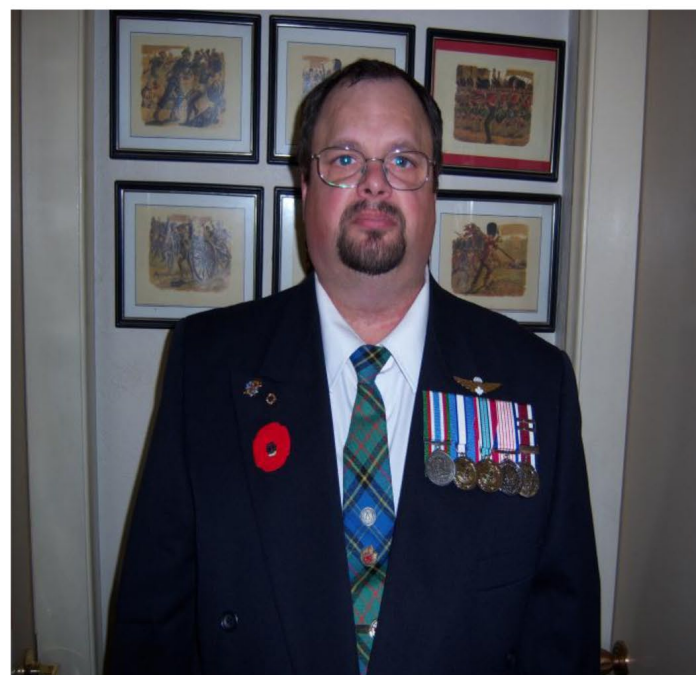
## Jim MacMillan-Murphy Prior for Canada

James (Jim), a Canadian by birth, started his military career in 1974. During his regular service, he served with the Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry and the Canadian Airborne Regiment. He was medically released from the regular forces in 1983 due to wounds from service in Cyprus. He served with the United Nations Force in Cyprus and Golan Heights. Highlights of his military service included part of the team that demonstrated and instructed the United States Armed Forces on the Canadian Armored Vehicle General Purpose (AVGP- GRIZZLY).

Upon leaving the Canadian Forces, James became involved in the Veterans Movement. He served with the Royal Canadian Air Force Association and as Chairman of 89 (Pacific) Squadron, Royal Canadian Air Cadets. He was responsible for this unit's rise from 60 to 150 young Canadians.

He used love of research to help resolve some issues at the Pioneer Square Cemetery in Victoria BC. The Royal Navy Sailors who were buried between 1846 to 1858, were missing headstones and markers; no one knew exactly who *was* buried where. James found where they were buried and even found the first policeman who died in the line of duty. His actions assisted the Royal Canadian Naval Association to commission a monument with all the names on it. He was made an honorary life member of the Royal Canadian Naval Association, the only non-naval person in Canada to hold this honor.

In 1991, he founded the Canadian Peacekeeping Veterans Association, an association dedicated to assisting Canadian Veterans and to educate the public about the peacekeeping experience. This association started as a regional venture, but soon the demand from across Canada, moved the association to expand to the National level. James initiated, lobbied for and developed the idea to have the Canadian Government award a recognition medal to peacekeepers to honor their service to Canada and to world peace. His previous veterans advocate work reminded him that he needed a grass-roots platform to inform the membership of not only what's going on, but to educate them. This gave birth to the "THE BLUE BERET", a newsletter written by James. In its eight year history, The Blue Beret has received numerous letters and accolades from the troops and policemen for its relevance to serving and veteran Canadian Peacekeepers.



As the National President of the CPVA, James routinely issued press releases about peacekeeping. He appeared on television, spoke on the radio and was quoted in print, providing information on the current peacekeeping situation. James gave evidence to both the Standing Committee and traveling committees on National Defense and Veterans Affairs, about Canada's role in Peacekeeping. He personally researched the names of all those who made the supreme sacrifice "IN THE SERVICE OF PEACE" which was the first full accounting completed. He was also one of the first persons to openly talk about "Post Traumatic Stress Disorder". His ideas were published in the Legion magazine (In the Danger Zone, October 1992). His words were also published in the Defense Associations National Network (Pacific Region Society) "Canadian Defense & Security - Voices from the West (The only enlisted man among the contributors). In 1992 he was awarded the 125th Anniversary of Canada Medal.

James has also published two e-books: "[Esquimalt Remembers](#)"; a short history of the military in the Esquimalt region, and "[Brave Chests](#)"; a history of Canadian Victoria Cross recipients. James is married to Karen (nee Cawker), have two Boys - Sean and Aaron. His hobbies are research and commonwealth Military/Police Histories.

## Toys for Tots Campaign - 2011

The Order works annually in conjunction with Toys for Tots. We have all heard the roar of motorcycles laden with dolls and trucks for the youngest of children at the Christmas season, but our older children and young teens are often forgotten. In keeping with the order's philosophy, and in tandem with Toys for Tots, we chose to donate toys and gifts for children above the age of 11. Celebrations were held in Southern California, San Jose and the Portland Area.



## Promotions

In keeping with the order's desire to reward its members, Sir Robert Keller and Dame Patricia Murphy were presented with promotions at the Christmas Party.

Citing his dedication to the Order of Constantine the Great and support to the membership, Sir John Quiroz promoted Sir Robert Keller from Knight to Knight Commander.



Sir John Quiroz promoted Dame Patricia Murphy from Dame to Dame Commander for her ability to create the jewels, sashes, and mantles of the order whenever asked to do so.

## *A Message from Jairo Gonzalez-Montoya, Archbishop for the Western Rite in Central and South America in Columbia*



Our work is with children in poor communities. Every day we assist poor children and families. We will try this Christmas season to bring joy and happiness.



## *The World's Oldest Order of Chivalric Knighthood unites with the Order of St. Lazarus of Jerusalem to further Humanitarian Efforts.*

*By Dame Adrienne Papp*

It seems amazing that in this day and age with our high-tech wizards and 3D special effects /virtual reality, there is still an enduring organization with its chivalric principles dating back to antiquity. The fact that the oldest Order in the world, established by the son of Constantine The Great of the Roman Empire, can still exist in southern California and not just historic Europe is a testimony to the strength of the values that have survived for the past 1700 years. An ancient Order of Knighthood with true human and historic principles that I had the pleasure of experiencing during a recent Investiture ceremony held in Pasadena, Calif.

The elegant and classic black tie dinner held to honor more than twenty citizens for their exemplary career achievements and contributions to both global and local communities, people like world-renowned medical doctor, Dr. Zein Obagi and his wife Mrs. Samar Obagi, who both have contributed to the science of skin health and beauty. These inductees are now part of an honorable order that had its origins back in 330 A.D. The Imperial & Charitable Order of Constantine the Great & of Saint Helen is an Order of Knighthood, founded in 330 A.D., whose members are dedicated to the chivalric principles of personal honor, courage, integrity, duty, and service.

To give you an idea as to its historic lineage, the order is named in honor of the victory of Constantine in 312, also known as Constantine the Great, who was a revolutionary Roman Emperor and lived from 27 February 272 – 22 May 337. Also known as Constantine I, Saint Constantine, or most frequently Constantine the Great was the Emperor of Rome from 306 to 337 and was well known for being the first Roman Emperor to convert to Christianity. Constantine and co-Emperor Licinius also issued the Edict of Milan in 313 A.D., a document that proclaimed religious tolerance of all religions throughout the empire. The foremost general of his time, Constantine fought successfully against the Franks, Alamanni, Visigoths, and Sarmatians during his reign – even resettling parts of Dacia which had been abandoned during the previous century. Constantine built a new imperial residence in place of Byzantium, naming it Constantinople, which would later be the capital of the Eastern Roman Empire for over one thousand years. Following this, he became Western Augustus, ruler of the entire Western Roman Empire until his death in 337. Constantine's visionary leadership and religious tolerance are considered major factors in the spread of Christianity.

The Order's connection to Saint Helen also provides a direct line to one of the earliest and most devout Christians. Saint Helen was married to a Roman General, Constantius Chlorus, and became the mother of Constantine the Great. She embraced Christianity late in life; but her incomparable faith and piety greatly influenced her son Constantine, the first Christian emperor, and served to kindle a holy fervor in the hearts of the Roman people. Forgetful of her high social standing, she offered assistance to poor among the lower social strata. When she was eighty, Saint Helen made a famous pilgrimage to Jerusalem, intent on discovering the cross on which Jesus Christ had been crucified. After a thorough investigation, three crosses were found on Mount Calvary. Saint Helen built a beautiful Basilica on Mount Calvary to receive the precious relic, sending portions of it also to Rome and Constantinople, where they were solemnly exposed to the faithful. She built two other famous churches in Palestine to honor the sacred sites of the life of Jesus, one at the site of His Ascension, and the other, known as the Basilica of the Nativity, in Bethlehem, which she and her son richly adorned. Her remains are now located at the church of the Abbey at Hautvillers in France.

The virtues of Constantine the Great and Saint Helen are celebrated by The Imperial & Charitable Order of Constantine the Great & Saint Helen, which recognizes men and women of exceptional accomplishment and service without regard to race, religion, or nationality and offers them an invitation to become part of their benevolent organization. As I watch the colorful procession of cloaks and flags and then finally the Investiture ceremony, I get a sense of being in a House of Royalty with all its dignified rituals and pageantry. I also get a distinct feeling that all of this is connected to an ancient lineage and tradition of chivalric principles expressed in the knightly orders of history. As each of the new Knights and Ladies are honored, they are celebrated for being highly successful in their life's work and now joining a tradition that will allow them to encourage and inspire young people and the less fortunate, and provide a model of leadership and strength of spirit, which are the foundation of our civilization.

The ceremonies include such dignitaries as Dr. Tae Yun Kim, Dame Commander, the founder, owner and CEO of the highly successful, worldwide technology company, Lighthouse Worldwide Solutions. She started this business venture without any knowledge or experience in business, relying only on her strong faith in God, her business acumen, and the vision she had received through fasting and prayer. The leadership of the Order, however, realized that Dr. Kim was not just a successful businesswoman, but was a true warrior, and therefore accepted her fully into Knighthood/Ladyship. Also honored was Edmund Kelii Silva, Jr. who is the direct lineal descendent of King Kamehameha the Great, and heir to the throne of the kingdom of Maui before King Kamehameha the Great unified the lands. On November 22, 2002, the prime minister of the Hawaiian kingdom, along with the Council of Regency, Na Kupuna Council O' Hawai'i Nei, the Na Kupuna Council Hawai'i Moku of the legislative body of government, and the Royal Kupunas of the House of Nobles jointly proclaimed that His Highness, Silva Jr. is the lawful successor to Ali'i Nui (High Chiefs) of ancient Hawai'i. Both Dr. Kim and His Royal Highness, Edmund Kelii Silva Jr. were honored by being made Priors of their local area of the Order.

As each of the honorees are sworn into this noble Order, they are also made aware that charity, though it often begins at home, continues on into other parts of the world. The Order, as constituted by its modern Knights and Dames, selects candidates from all professions and inspires them to return to the chivalric values of mankind. The Order also has affiliations with similar Orders in many parts of the world who also remain actively committed to making the world a better place to live. The Imperial & Charitable Order of Constantine the Great & of Saint Helen now has a growing presence in 23 countries and still growing. To make sure that their efforts don't go unnoticed, the Order appointed Dame Adrienne Papp in January of 2011 to be the public officer, or in our modern language publicist, for the organization. Thus, like tradition allows through Dame Adrienne a new person can be invested into the Order as a Knight or a Dame upon acceptance.

Next year the Order will visit the Vatican, and various battle fields in Rome to celebrate the seventeenth-hundred anniversary of the victory of Constantine the Great in 312 A.D. While no longer required to maintain a "battle-trained horse, three lances and armor in good repair," the Dames and Knights of the Imperial and Charitable Order of Constantine the Great and of Saint Helen continue to grow and prosper, expanding their influence and chivalric values everywhere. Since 2005, this Order of Knighthood has raised and donated many hundreds of thousands of dollars for the less fortunate and will continue to do so with the help of its growing membership. It's all part of the organization's sworn pledge to uphold the traditional and historic values of personal honor, courage and service to others.

One the Order's newest affiliation is with The Hospitaller Order of Saint Lazarus of Jerusalem. The Hospitaller Order of Saint Lazarus of Jerusalem is an international organization primarily established to aid and assist in Hospitaller and philanthropic work in the various continents in which it operates. Its Grand Priorities and Commanderies are very active throughout the world. Originally a medieval religious

Organization, it played a military role from 1120 to about the beginning of the 16th century, with military activities centered in the Holy Land helping to hold it for Christianity. In its religious aspect, the Order was originally comprised of monks taking the triple vows of poverty, chastity and obedience. After the Crusades, the Order's religious character was maintained by means of its chaplains, its Religious Protector, its Spiritual Grand Prior, its rules, services and traditions. Members were expected to live their lives in the spirit of ecumenical Christian charity.

American officers were elected, providing the necessary protocol to consecrate the Grand Priory of the United States, on July 23, 2011 in the Chapel of St. Francis of Assisi in Riverside, California, USA.

Led by the Very Reverend Thomas Mount as Grand Prior, Lazerites have already shown a strong dedication to Hospitaller work, raising funds to purchase a specialized Moto-Med machine, which was provided to assist a 22-year old woman who was permanently paralyzed in an accident. "We believe that the U.S. Grand Priory will indeed be one of the leading Grand Priorities within the order in the coming years," commented Dr. Max J. Ellul. "We have seen a gigantic effort within the U.S. A team of officers, led by Dame Karen Cantrell CLJ, have exercised in order to create a foundation for such a Grand Priory and are positively assured that their Hospitaller work in the U.S. will be an example to all."

"The Order is for individuals with a strong will and a desire to become a better person and volunteer for humanity to help preserve honorable traditions and help make a better world," says Dame Cantrell. "If you need to give up something luxurious in your life in order to help, please do so" she adds with sincere tears in her eyes. She is genuine, dedicated and a not only a beautiful woman, but a beautiful spirit.

If anyone believes that the principles of Knighthood and chivalry are dead, then they haven't been exposed to the phenomenal work that some of our modern Knights and Dames (or as commonly referred to in Europe, Ladies) are doing. To see the work done by The Imperial & Charitable Order of Constantine the Great & Saint Helen and The Hospitaller Order of Saint Lazarus of Jerusalem is to experience a shining light that was lit back in the year 312 and continues to be a beacon of benevolence and charity for all to this day through its dedicated leaders and members.



Ability is defined by One's Birth and Action and not by Titles bestowed upon them.

Michael, Duke of Gardham, G D G